

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 198595

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ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-03 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-15 RSC-01 /049 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: OVIP, HU

SUBJECT: CARDINAL MINDSZENTY'S US VISIT

1. SUMMARY. WHILE IN US SEPT. 28-OCT. 2, CARDINAL MINDSZENTY AVOIDED CONTROVERSIAL STATEMENTS AND PARTICIPATED IN DEDICATION HUNGARIAN CHURCH. HE ALLUDED IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS TO MORE EXTENSIVE 1974 TRIP TO US, SAYING TRIP WOULD COINCIDE WITH PUBLICATION OF HIS MEMOIRS. END SUMMARY.

2. ARRIVING IN NEW YORK SEPT. 28, CARDINAL MINDSZENTY WAS MET AT AIRPORT BY CARDINAL COOKE, AND GIVEN MOTORCADE ESCORT TO CARDINAL COOKE'S RESIDENCE. MINDSZENTY'S ARRIVAL STATEMENT THANKED "GENEROSITY OF US PEOPLE, AND ALL PERSONS IN US EMBASSY BUDAPEST" WHO WERE HIS COMPANIONS DURING LONG REFUGE.

3. CARDINAL MINDSZENTY PARTICIPATED IN DEDICATION ST. LADISLAUS CHURCH IN NEW BRUNSWICK, NEW JERSEY, AND TOOK OCCASION TO ASK PARISHIONERS TO KEEP HUNGARIAN LANGUAGE AND CUSTOMS ALIVE. ASIDE FROM PLANNED PUBLIC ITINERARY, HE GRANTED SOME SHORT PRIVATE AUDIENCES AND PRESS INTERVIEWS, AND SPENT BALANCE OF TIME WITH CLERICS AND HUNGARIAN-

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AMERICAN SEMI-RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS. PRESS COVERAGE WAS

MODERATE AND REFLECTED NO COMMENTS OF CONTROVERSIAL NATURE.
IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS, MINDSZENTY REFERRED TO HIS PLANS
TO VISIT US NEXT YEAR, AND SAID THAT TIMING OF TRIP WOULD
BE PLANNED TO COINCIDE WITH PUBLICATION DATE OF HIS
MEMOIRS.

4. ACCORDING VOA STAFFER WHO WAS IN NEW JERSEY FOR THE
VISIT, ONLY POSSIBLE JARRING NOTE WAS AVOIDED WHEN
MINDSZENTY REFUSED TO SEE A HOUSE INTERNAL SECURITY
COMMITTEE STAFFER WHO WISHED TO OBTAIN "STATEMENTS ON
COMMUNISM" FROM HIM. MINDSZENTY ALLUDED TO MEETINGS HE
HAD HAD IN CANADA AND THE UK WITH MPS, AND DECLINED
TO "GIVE STATEMENTS TO A MESSENGER."

5. CARDINAL LEFT NEW YORK FOR VIENNA OCT. 2. HE IS
REPORTED TO LOOK WELL AND TO BE AS VIGOROUS AS EVER. RUSH

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